

# **GHCA GQI Asphalt Committee**

## **June 2003 Meeting Minutes**

June 26, 2003

### **Old Business:**

#### **Asphalt Quality Conference:**

The GHCA-GQI Committee was updated by Roger Dill on arrangements for the 2004 Asphalt Quality Conference. The conference will be held February 11 thru 13, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Macon, Georgia. There will be a registration fee that the cost of which has not been determined. In addition, rooms will cost \$55.00 per night with meals at \$32.50 per day.

It was decided that this year's conference will be more of a "hand on" less technical/theory agenda that would be helpful to both the Contractor's and GDOT personnel who actually are involved in the placement of asphalt. Roger advised that he would like to invite both Chuck Deal (Compaction America) and Tom Skinner (Blaw-Knox) to give presentations this year. It was further suggested that some of the more common problems on paving projects such as segregation causes and cures be included in the workshops. Additionally, it was discussed as to whether an actual paving demonstration could be arranged during the conference—for instance paving one of the conference center's parking lots.

Roger stated that he would really like for this conference to focus on assuring the quality of asphalt production and placement and offering recommendations/training on how to achieve this.

#### **Equipment Task Force—Extendable Screed**

It was discussed that an additional test section involving the Blaw-Knox Extendable Screed was planned on a project being constructed by Pav-Tec Inc in Savannah, Georgia. The section where it is planned to test the extendable screed is not ready yet and at this time a specific date is not available. As this time frame is determined the committee will be notified. The draft report on the current test section already evaluated is available upon request.

### **New Business:**

#### **Quality Control Technician Training:**

It was discussed as how to best enact new training for both Contractor and GDOT Quality Control Technicians (QCTs). This training may be used in lieu of having the

QCTs recertify through testing in the future. It was proposed that two separate levels of training be made available so that both recently certified QCTs as well as more experienced QCTs could benefit. A task force was formed to investigate and make recommendations on how to best proceed with this matter. The following persons volunteered for the task force: Roger Dill, Wayne Boatright, Andrew Johnson, Chris Wagner, Rick Douds and Tony Felix.

### **Proposed Changes to GSP-21**

Proposed changes in GSP-21 were outlined for the committee by Daniel Mann. The following changes with comments are included.

1. Sampling (page 1)

Note: All hot mix samples of SMA/PEM/OGFC obtained for Comparison and Referee testing shall be placed in a hot melt box to eliminate the loss of liquid Asphalt Cement or a cloth or plastic bag after the material has cooled down. (Do not use metal cans or place hot asphaltic concrete in a cloth or plastic bag when sampling SMA/PEM/OGFC mixes.)

There was no disagreement over this recommended change.

7. Lime Checks (page 4)

Note: In accordance with SOP-27 and 400.01.3, All contractors shall be required to keep a copy of all lime receipts in a folder at the asphalt plant field laboratory for 90 days; whereas, an invoice for a load that was split and sent to separate plants, a copy of said invoice with the total amount unloaded shall be written on the invoice and placed in the project file. This file shall be accessible to DOT representatives at all times.

There was discussion that this would become a requirement of the QCTs to assure that the invoices were kept and it was decided that this should not be so. It was decided to remove this recommended change from GSP-21 and keep the requirement in SOP-27.

9. A.C. Samples (page 4)

Obtain samples in one (1) quart, tin can. If liquid overruns can, discard and obtain another sample.

Note: All contractors will be required to submit start-up samples to the Central or Branch Lab 24 hours prior to starting production. When production is scheduled to begin on a weekend or state holiday, samples shall be submitted 3 days prior to stating production. Production will not be allowed to start until test results are complete and meet the specification requirements for liquid asphalt.

It was discussed that at times this requirement is a hardship to hot mix producers because of unforeseen circumstances such as plant breakdowns etc. Georgene Geary advised that GSP-21 would be revised to reflect a statement allowing that this requirement could be waived by the Bituminous TSE in “special circumstances”.

10. Other Sampling Requirements—Interstate Projects only (page 5)

Note: It shall be the contractor’s responsibility of supply a Gyratory Compactor, including a Calibration kit, Electronic Balance with a weighing capacity of 12,000 grams, Asphalt Ignition Oven and all T-209 test equipment for the field laboratory as specified in Section 152, Special Provision of the contract for all interstate projects.

Roger Dill suggested that it be researched as to whether testing equipment could be added to future contracts as a bid item. Chris Wagner suggested that he did not foresee this for FHWA projects. In addition, it was discussed that this statement be revised to reflect the specification requirements for on mainline paving only.

11. Plant Diary: (page 6)

i.) AC sample, Releasing Agent and Lime Samples, to include any samples taken for Lab testing.

It was discussed as to why Releasing Agents and Lime had to be sampled. It was relayed that this has always been a requirement. At this time, Roger Dill produced a copy of a plant diary used by Pav-Tec Inc and suggested that the GHCA use this as an example and have diaries printed for all members. It was decided that the GHCA would look into this matter.

At this time, Gene Googe asked why so many items were required in the plant diary and discussion ensued as to whether the information was relevant. Again it was discussed that when it was written into GSP-21, it became a requirement for the QCT and could get them into trouble. It was reminded that the plant diary is a legal document and the required information is necessary. In addition, Georgene Geary advised that any disciplinary actions taken against Contractor QCTs would be addressed with common sense and the severity of any infractions would also be looked at.

It was also brought up that at times there were still issues with compaction information getting to the contractor within the two day time frame. Gene Googe and Wayne Marshall both advised that they did not consider it the contractor’s responsibility to assure that GDOT field technicians did their jobs by calling the TMOS if they did not receive compaction information. A recommendation was made that email be used to forward compactions to the contractor and that the TMOS be copied.

12. Computer (page 7)

All Contractors shall provide a PC or laptop computer that remains at the plant.

It was discussed that this was necessary to assure that all information pertaining to the 159s are uploaded accurately. This accuracy of this information not only affects the Quality Rating Program but also impacts Material Certificates. Travis Padgett advised that this could prove to be a security issue and the computers could be stolen. Georgene Geary advised that she would get additional information prior to enacting this requirement.

14. Control of Asphaltic Concrete Mixtures (page 7)

The Quality Control Manager shall ensure that Quality Control Technicians shall not perform QCT and Plant Operator duties simultaneously.

Discussions finally arrived at the reality that these two duties could not be performed at the same time.

### **Proposed Changes to SOP-27**

Recommended revisions to SOP-27 were presented to the committee. The revisions are bolded for your review. *Comments are in bold italics.*

C. Removal from the Approved List

Failure to adhere to Specification requirements as set forth in Subsection 400.3.06 as related to quality control, Quality Control Manager and Quality Control Technician requirements may subject the producer to immediately be placed in a “probationary period.” If this happens, the Producer may be notified that he is in a “probationary period.” **The length of the “probationary period” will depend on the nature of the infraction. During the first 15-day production of the “probation period”, a Georgia Department of Transportation Representative will be present at the plant fulltime and a fee will be charged to the producer.** At this time he has ten working days (10) to respond in writing to the State Materials and Research Engineer, and explain why the specification requirements were not met and what steps will be taken to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. Any future occurrence of failure to adhere to Subsection 400.3.06 shall subject the Producer to immediate removal from QPL-45, Georgia’s “List of Approved Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete Plants.” The Producer may be subject to removal from the Qualified Products List (QPL-45) for any first offense deemed serious enough by the State Materials and Research Engineer.

#### D. Reinstatement to the Approved List

Once removed from the approved list, a Producer may gain reinstatement in the following manner:

1. The Producer shall make a written request to the State Materials and Research Engineer asking to be reinstated to the approved list. The request should address the causes, which affected removal from the approved list. The Producer should state measures taken to upgrade his quality control in the production of the material. A detailed quality control program must be submitted listing the type and frequency of test proposed to control the plant and the name of the certified testing technician responsible for the program.
2. If the submitted quality control program is approved, the Producer will be placed on "Special Control". He will be carried on special control for a period of ten (10) production days. During this period, the Producer will report his quality control results to the State Bituminous Construction Engineer's Office on a daily basis. **In addition, a Georgia Department of Transportation Representative will be at the plant fulltime and a fee will be charged to the producer during the ten (10) days production period.**
3. If the Producer's quality control program is adequate and the State Materials a Research Engineer finds that the Producer meets the requirements for approved plants; the Producer will be reinstated to the approved list.

*It was discussed that the probationary period procedures were a little confusing and that the cost of the fees needed to be spelled out. It was agreed that this part would be rewritten for clarity and a specified fee would be included.*

#### IV INSPECTION

Random visits will be made to all approved plants by inspectors from the Office of Materials and Research. These visits will be made to insure that the plant facilities are maintained in satisfactory operating condition. Annual visits will be made for the purpose of updating the plant for compliance as set forth in Section II of this S.O.P.

##### **A. Materials Invoices**

**In accordance with Section 400.1.03, formal written invoices for all hydrated lime and Asphalt Cement that has been modified with either polymer or anti-strip additive will be copied and filed at each asphalt plant for a minimum time period of 3 months (90 days). These invoices are to be furnished to the Department upon request.**

*It was discussed that this revision also needed additional clarity and would also be rewritten. The revised SOP-27 will be posted and sent out when complete.*

### **FHWA LCCA Software**

Georgene Geary advised the FHWA LCCA software was now available and advised the committee that copies were available upon request either through her or the FHWA. It was discussed that this software would enable a more accurate analysis between different types of pavement structure construction cost.

### **GHCA GQI Asphalt Committee Web Page**

Georgene advised the committee that the GQI Asphalt Committee Web Page was now available through the GDOT web page. It can be reached by going to the OMR web page and clicking on the Paving Bureau link. The GQI Asphalt Committee Web Page Link is [here](#).

### **Perpetual Pavement Task Force**

The committee agreed to form a Perpetual Pavement Task Force. Chris Wagner suggested that Georgia was actually a leader in building perpetual pavements by our aggressive preventative maintenance program. It was agreed that a task force would be formed.

A discussion ensued as to how it could be better conveyed to the general public what a tremendous “bargain” they are getting for their highway dollars. A suggestion was made that the committee pursue more effective Public Relations to help increase the amount of money spent on road construction.

### **Proposed Changes to Specifications Sections 400 and 828**

Peter Wu presented the proposed specification changes to Sections 400 and 828. His PowerPoint Presentation is located in another document for your review along with general discussions.

After review of the information found in Attachment A, it was decided that a couple of test section projects should be quickly let so that these new specifications can be evaluated in actual asphalt construction. A specification task force was formed. Peter Wu is the Chairman and other members include: Wayne Marshall, Gene Googe, Bobby Bragg, Andrew Johnson, Chris Wagner, Sheila Hines, Tony Felix, and Daniel Mann.